

THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION

LIST OF BOOKS FOR COLLEGE LIBRARIES **

Under the sponsorship of The Carnegie Corporation of New York the preliminary edition of A List of Books for College Libraries which came off the press about five months ago was compiled by Mr. Charles B. Shaw of Swarthmore College assisted by one-hundred seventy-five experts and some twenty-five or thirty librarians* for the Advisory Group on College Libraries of which Mr. W.W. Bishop is chairman.

The primary purpose of this list is to assist this Committee in determining the needs and opportunities of college libraries. It has been planned that a corrected edition including an author index will be issued later, and very likely will be made available thru the agency of the American Library Association.*² This edition is expected to appear about February 1931.

The purpose of this paper is to open a discussion; it is, therefore, not intended as a criticism of the work, altho we shall examine it in the light of some of Miss Mudge's suggestions on how to study reference books as found in her Guide*³

The need of a list of books for college libraries, both as an aid to book selections for the purpose of raising the standards of college libraries, as well as for a reference tool in all libraries can not be questioned. This list, as far as I know, is the only one of its kind, this will naturally enhance its value.

Sponsored as it is by The Carnegie Corporation, edited and prepared by librarians and experts of the various fields of knowledge for the Advisory Group on College Libraries, and published in a corrected edition by The American Library Association, could this list have more ear marks of an authoritative Catalog for College Libraries?

As to its date, if this is to be a late 1930 or early 1931 reference work, it would be well to check the date of the latest books included within the list with the expected date of publication.

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- ** Paper read at Mid-Winter Meeting, Chicago, Dec. 29, 1930.
* Association of American Colleges. Bulletin, v.16, no.3. N'30, p.362
*2 Library Journal 55:976 D-1 '30
*3 Mudge, Isadore Gilbert. Guide to reference books; 5th ed. Chicago, A.L.A., 1929. p. xi-xii.

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1927 and 1928 books are to be found in great numbers thru out the work, the 1929 publications are more scarce, while 1930 books appear very seldom in the list. A quotation or two from college instructors who examined the bibliography may be of interest.

Speaking of the physical education section it was remarked that "Sections 4,5, and 6 are especially good because they contain the more recent works, which, of course, should be the main point in choosing books for the technic of physical education. There are some new books in this field, especially those dealing with women's physical education, which, however, are not included".

"College students are turning again in great numbers to German for their modern language requirement. Elementary and intermediate classes require easy books for outside reading. Beginning the language in college -- as they are doing at present -- the students will be induced to read modern stories more readily than others, because these are more to their taste and similar in viewpoint to the English with which they are familiar. There should be a goodly number of works by contemporary authors in the German library department. A splendid list of such books is given by Lilian Ströbe of Vassar College in Der Monatshefte für deutschen Unterricht. " *4

Speaking of the European History section: "I question somewhat the advisability of buying many books published before 1900, classics in their day perhaps, but now replaced by other volumes possibly of higher merit... The selection of the books dealing with recent history, 1910-1931, is excellent." Much more could be said with regard to later editions but this is left for your discussion.

The arrangement of any reference work is of great importance. Here we find an alphabetical arrangement of subjects as: Astronomy, Botany, Chemistry, Classics, Economics, Education, English, Fine Arts, General, Geography, etc. thru Zoology. Each subject is divided into form sections, such as Periodicals and Reference works, followed by subdivisions of the subject as, for example, in Education: Principles and Philosophy; Educational Sociology; Educational History and Biography; Elementary and Preschool; Secondary, etc. Under each subdivision the books are listed alphabetically by author. What has been used as a basis for these subject subdivisions, I am unable to ascertain; especially is this true under the heading General Works. Why should nine subdivisions, such as Literature, Biography, Miscellaneous, Library Science, Law, and Mythology, come between the subdivisions General Science and Technology and General Science? Again, between Reference Books--Travel, and Travel--General come twenty-one subject subdivisions, such as: Law, Mythology, General Science, Transportation and Communication, Agriculture, Gardening, Collecting, French Translations, and Miscellaneous Translations, Since all these subdivisions

*4 Griebisch, Max. Monatshefte für deutschen Unterricht. University of Wisconsin. Madison, Wisconsin. May 1930

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are found under the heading General should we not also find Art, Education, History, and a few others? Is it necessary to have these subdivisions here under General, since for each subject we find the form subdivision, Reference Works? Would it not be better to limit this section to the General form reference books such as: Bibliographies, Indexes, Dictionaries, and Encyclopedias? ## (Footnote).

Miss Lucy E. Fay, School of Library Service, Columbia University, when mentioning the arrangement of a suggested book catalog for college libraries said: "If the chief use of the book catalog is to be a guide in scientifically building collections for courses of instruction, would it not be desirable to arrange entries under the names of these courses? There is a surprising uniformity in the way college catalogs list their courses of instruction alphabetically from Art or Astronomy to Spanish or Zoology. In this catalog of books however, a grouping of allied courses under three main divisions: Literature and Languages; History and Economics; Science, Pure and Applied might be better than an alphabetical arrangement of all courses. * 5 Which, in your opinion, is the better arrangement? Or, would a classified catalog similar in arrangement to The A.L.A. Catalog, or the Wilson Standard Catalog for High School Libraries be of more value? Or, again, would an alphabetical or classified catalog which has first been divided into Junior and Senior College be of still greater value?

Books, periodicals, publications of learned societies, and dissertations are to be found in this list of between fifteen and seventeen thousand entries. Each citation of a title gives author, full title, imprint, collation, price (when possible), L.C. card number, and if book is out of print a note to that effect.

Miss Fay, in her paper quoted before, suggested an annotated catalog and one in which the number of titles total not less than twenty-five thousand. She also thought that it would be well to include information about files of those periodicals not completely procurable, with suggestions in regard to the best year to begin a file when a library could not get the entire set. Of how great a value do you think the suggested information would be?

As to the consideration of the titles included, the following remarks have been heard:

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- * 5 Fay, Lucy E. "A standard book collection for the undergraduate college library." Library journal 53:1025-1026. D 15 '28
In a preprint from The Library Quarterly v.1, no.1, Ja '31, which came after this paper was written, appears a portion of the paper read by the editor of this College Catalog, Mr. Charles D. Shaw, at the College and University Section, Pennsylvania Library Association, October 25, 1930. These are his words with regard to the arrangement of A List of Books for College Libraries:
(Here a quotation from p. 73 of the preprint was read).

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"The list of English books is, in my opinion, an entirely satisfactory one; the older standard works, as well as modern scholarship are adequately represented."

"The books in the German Department are quite adequate as a basic library and for practical purposes. Undergraduates studying German will be able to find sufficient sources in the lexicons, dictionaries, histories of literature, books of criticism and the rest, for the essays and papers required of them."

"The books on Education recommended for a college library seem to me to be well chosen. I think they represent work done in many fields of education and would therefore give the student the overview which he needs in order to understand his own position as contributor later. The social aspects of education could be more amply represented."

"The list of books on Psychology include more titles of popular treatment than most college libraries would allow. If the scientific attitude is to be fostered in students of psychology, care must be taken not to get their tastes vitiated by the merely sensational or the exaggerated pronouncements of those who write to shock rather than inform or instruct. The references supplied by such authors of text-books as: Woodworth, Cates, Dasheill, Gannon, and Hunter are safer guides than the shelves of bookstores."

"A noteworthy feature of the list of periodicals and reference books recommended by The Carnegie List for the Chemistry Department is that it is sufficiently comprehensive to cover the reference requirements of most undergraduate courses. It might be remarked that the circulation books lean toward a collection for a graduate school."

"The books for European History are well chosen from the point of view (1) of the writers selected, e.g., Hazen, Thompson, Madelin, Schevill, Davis, Moon, Figgis, Laski, Turner, Gooch, Hayes, Gibbons, Janssen, etc., (2) of the relative number of books in the different fields, and (3) of the thoroughness of handling a subject from the political, constitutional, social, and cultural aspects... The same might be said of the field of American History with the exception of the omission of one valuable set, namely, A History of American life series edited by Schlessinger and Fox. * 6

"An exhaustive list of wisely selected books on French Literature and Language is to be found in this catalog of Books."

"For the very controversial subjects of Philosophy and Religion, can an adequate basic collection suitable for all college libraries ever be made?" In this connection there is a paucity of Catholic authors

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* 6 SCHLESINGER, Arthur M. History of American Life, ed. by A.M. Schlesinger & D.R.Fox. N.Y., Macmillan, 1927- 12v. (v.1,2,3,6, 8, published).

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in the Carnegie List. These books, I am confident, will gladly be included if they are supplied from reliable sources.

As has been mentioned before, there is to be an author index in the corrected edition. A few questions arise; first; have the title and subject indexes of the A.L.A. Catalog, the Classified Catalogue of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, THE Wilson Standard Catalog for High School Libraries been of sufficient value to warrant the time and expense that was necessary in their compilation? Second; since there are a number of repetitions of titles in this College list, will there be a method of cross reference in the index for these, and for other repetitions of as great a value; or, might cross references incorporated in the list be a quicker aid, and, therefore, of more value?

Just as a collection of books for a college library loses its value if not kept up to date by adding new editions and newer works, so too, will this valuable list lose its reference value if some method can not be provided for keeping it up to date. What methods might be suggested?

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"REPORT ON A.L.A. ACTIVITIES" -as of L*BRARIES, p.450, v.35,no. 10,
December, 1930-

At the A.L.A. Council meetings in December, 1927, the late lamented John Cotton Dana addressed a communication to the Council with the request that it be read to the assembly. This was done and considerable discussion, public and private, appertained to it.

The Council acting upon this communication, appointed a special committee to study and report upon the matters brought up by Mr. Dana, and at the A.L.A. meeting at West Baden, May, 1928, the committee reported. The committee, in making its report, closed with the following recommendation:

A periodic scrutiny of Association activities within three years and not less frequently than every third year thereafter should be made by a committee to be appointed by the President, such scrutiny to include as complete consideration of the effectiveness and results of the various activities as is warranted and practicable, with a view of suggesting to the Council possible changes of policy.

The present report on A.L.A. activities is made by a committee consisting of Mr. Compton of St. Louis, Miss Countryman of Minneapolis, and Dr. H.H.B. Meyer of Washington. Much discussion, both pro and con, goes on in small groups concerning the matters intended to be covered by these reports. The report of the present committee is to be presented at the Council meetings at the Midwinter meeting in Chicago, December 29-31.

It would seem to be the part of propriety, fairness and wisdom that a large part of the membership of the Council, over 100, should be present and should give attention to this report, either as it is presented to the Council or as it appears in the Proceedings. If it is permitted by the usual courtesy that members in good standing of the A.L.A. may be present (on one side) during the session of the Council, additional opportunity for fair treatment and unbiased consideration of these matters of vital interest to the well being of the A.L.A. would be afforded to many of its members.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York has recently made a gift of \$150,000 to Oberlin College, Ohio for endowment of the librarianship of the college library. This fund is to be used in the same way as an endowment of a professorship in any department.

The Oberlin College library, now the largest college (not university) library in the United States, was founded at the beginning of the college, 1843, by Rev. John L. Shipherd, who collected books and money from his friends. In 1874, when the library was given its first full-time librarian, it numbered 10,000 v. Under the able directorship of the late Azariah S. Root, 1897-1927, the library grew rapidly and today numbers approximately 325,000 v.